

# Regional Resource Stewardship Council Meeting

## September 10-11, 2003

What are the most important national and regional trends TVA's recreation planning should take into consideration?

### **High Priority**

- Population growth / growth in user demand
- Crumbling infrastructure
- Diminishing political priority of recreation creates planning challenges
- Funding issues (lack of sustainable funding)
- Growing number of partnership opportunities
- Improvement in planning tools and goal setting tools
  - Must establish goals before plans
  - Improvement in tools/ROS tools for planning (quantify recreation values, economic models, etc.)
  - ID Niche, vision, strategies for partnerships
- Increasing numbers of volunteers
- Attraction to resources near water for recreation
- People are recreating closer to home
- Increasing dependence on local provision of recreation
- Security impacts

### **Medium Priority**

- Preservation of land (by non-profit preservation groups)
- Loss of TVA land to development
- Type of user demand is changing (individual activities increasing)
- Awareness of environmental issues increasing and the public is more demanding on issues of natural resource management
- Segments of the population are unaware of environmental issues
- Consumerism/commercialism attached to outdoor recreation is growing
- Change in the ethnicity of people recreating in areas with different recreation demands/needs
- Change in economic trends / effect of discretionary income on recreation demands

### **Low Priority**

- People are living longer and have changing recreation needs
- Health issues are becoming a driver of recreation activities

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## 2. What should be the most critical elements of TVA's recreation strategy?

### **High Priority**

- Funding
  - Serious consideration of access fees (for benefits to operations & maintenance)
  - Establish sustainable funding
  - Ensure that user fees will be reinvested in recreation projects
  - Recognize and determine (quantify) the multiplier value of recreation on the regional economy
  - Consider funding sources other than federal funding, self-sustainable program operated like a business
- Public surveys (user satisfaction, preference, etc)
  - Determine what people value - prerequisite for planning
  - Determine interests
  - Determine economic values
- Preservation of land
- Explore the concept of periodic meetings between the partners of each reservoir
  - Include local governments (and other stakeholders) in partnership and communication meetings to help them understand the recreation and economic benefits of the river system
  - Public participation
- Outsource activities but not the core mission
- Provide customer satisfaction through customer service
- Long range planning for stewardship of public lands for recreation (10-20 year plans)
- Establish recognized, public, sustainable and comprehensive goals to assist in building public trust
- Broad TVA support of recreation program goals
- Education of the general public

### **Medium Priority**

- Also consider quality of life issues

### **Low Priority**

- Revisit congressional funding for recreation programs

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### 3. What should TVA's recreation program look like in five years:

- Federal funding for activities that typically take place on federal lands (like NPS, USFS, COE)

#### a. What activities should receive **more** emphasis?

- Look at total availability (of recreation opportunities) on a regional basis, instead of making everything the same
- Partnering (all stakeholders), planning, surveys, analysis, cost-sharing
- Preservation of the right to hunt on TVA public lands
- Facilities management will continue to be important (infrastructure, drinking water and waste water/sanitation facilities, launching facilities, signage)
- Preservation of public land for recreation, instead of development
- More personal water craft-free zones, partner with TWRA
- Open, transparent establishment of criteria and goals for land management
- TVA should retain ability to manage and sell lands

#### b. What activities should receive **less** emphasis?

- Determine as a result of surveys
- Determine during meetings with partners the reduction of TVA staff maintenance and operational responsibilities (responsibilities that can be transferred to the partners)

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### **Lunch Discussion Issues:**

- 1) Homeland security issues
- 2) Access Fees
- 3) Collection of fees
  - a) Mark Fly's suggestion -Recreation "Green Access" Check Box on power bill
- 4) Recreation closer to home recreation, less formal
- 5) Responsibility to provide access to all (across the socio-economic spectrum)
- 6) Total costs of recreation (power loss, management, etc.)
- 7) FERC licensing issues for IOU's